Delay In Implementing the Prasar Bharati Act.

606. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI:
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION ADN BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been inordinate delay in implementing the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990; and

(b) if so, the reasons for delay and steps being taken for its implementation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b). Many essential formalities need to be completed and various steps taken before the Prasar Bharati can be established. Ministry is seized of the issue and the Government remains committed for the same.

[*Translation*]

Demand to Withdraw Hike in Prices of Imported Paper.

607. SHRI SIMON MARANDI:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether representatives of various Newspaper Organisations have demanded the withdrawal of the hike made in the prices of imported and indigenous newsprint;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government so far with regard to withdrawal of the hike in prices of the imported and indigenous newsprint;

(c) the criteria adopted for supplying newsprint to the newspaper industries; and

(d) the names of the states in which the criteria is being followed from January, 1991 till date?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far as the hike in prices of imported newsprint on account of rolling of credits by State Trading Corporation and devaluation is concerned, the matter has been resolved and decision in this regard was announced in Lok Sabha on 20.8.1991. There is, at present, no statutory control over the prices of indigenous newsprint which are determined by commercial market factors whereas prices of imported newsprint depend on procurement price contracted by State Trading Corporation.

(c) Newsprint is allocated by the Registrar of Newspapers for India to the newspapers as per Newsprint Allocation Policy announced by Government from time to time. Thereafter the supplies are made by indigenous newsprint mills and State Trading Corporation accordingly.

(d) The Newsprint Allocation Policy applies to all newspapers published in the country, irrespective of State or Union Territory.

Deployment of Army in Assam

608. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have deployed army in several districts of Assam for controlling the activities of United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA);

(b) if so, the names of such districts and since when army has been deployed therein;